

What is claimed is:

1. A hinge locking assembly for a hinged device having a closed orientation, a
5 fully open orientation and an intermediate and locked orientation comprising:

a lock barrel having a central opening into which extends a lock shaft;
the lock shaft being rotatable, by a user, from a locked to an unlocked
position;

- 10 the lock shaft supporting a spring biased cam pin and a spring biased reset
pin;

the barrel supporting a pivoting toggle, the toggle having a head and a tail;
the cam pin impinging on the head of the toggle when the lock shaft is in the
locked position and on the tail of the toggle when the lock shaft is in the
15 unlocked position;

the assembly further comprising a shroud that conceals the lock barrel and
lock shaft and rotates from the closed orientation to the fully open orientation,
the shroud having an internal tooth that interferes with the head of the toggle
in the intermediate and locked orientation;

- 20 movement of the shroud from the fully open orientation to the closed
orientation causing contact with the reset pin and consequently a rotation of
the lock shaft into its locked position.

2. The assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

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a track arm having a first and a second limit stop and a retaining arm in which
is formed a slot, the slot adapted to retain a pin formed on a pivoting housing;
the lock barrel having a rotational stop formed on it; wherein,

- 30 the first limit stop of the track arm is adapted to impinge against the toggle
when the lock shaft is in the locked position and the second limit stop of the
track arm is adapted to impinge against the rotational stop of the lock barrel
to limit the absolute range of motion of the track arm.

3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein:

the lock barrel has an end plate that is spaced away from a main body portion
by a mid-body, a toggle shaft extending between the main body portion and
5 the end plate, the toggle shaft carrying the toggle.

4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein:

the lock barrel is carried by a lock barrel retainer formed in a corner of a
10 cooking surface.

5. The assembly of claim 4, wherein:

a facia is attached to the lock barrel; and
15 a control knob is coupled to the lock shaft through the facia and lock barrel.

6. A combination sandwich press and grill device having a lower housing and
an upper housing that is carried by a "U" shaped frame, the frame having
parallel arms, a first arm terminating in a shroud, the device further
20 comprising:

a lock barrel having a central opening into which extends a lock shaft;
the lock shaft being rotatable, by a user, from a locked to an unlocked
position;
25 the lock shaft supporting a spring biased cam pin and a spring biased reset
pin;
the barrel supporting a pivoting toggle, the toggle having a head and a tail;
the cam pin impinging on the head of the toggle when the lock shaft is in the
locked position and on the tail of the toggle when the lock shaft is in the
30 unlocked position;
the shroud concealing the lock barrel and lock shaft and adapted to rotate
from a closed orientation to a fully open orientation, the shroud having an
internal tooth that interferes with the head of the toggle in an intermediate
and locked orientation;

movement of the shroud from the fully open orientation to the closed orientation causing contact with the reset pin and consequently a rotation of the lock shaft into its locked position.

5 7. The device of claim 6, wherein:

a second arm supports a supporting finger that extends to support the upper housing when in the fully open orientation.

10 8. The device of claim 7, wherein:

the supporting finger is acted on by an actuating arm that is concealed by a second arm, the actuating arm urged by a cam surface when the device is opened.

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9. The device of claim 7, wherein:

the supporting finger impinges on and supports an extension of the upper cooking surface when the device is fully open.

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10. A combination sandwich press and grill device having a lower housing and an upper housing that is carried by a "U" shaped frame, the lower housing having a lower cooking surface, wherein:

25 the lower cooking surface is tilt adjustable and controlled by an actuator located on the exterior of the lower housing, the actuator coupled to a forward portion of the lower cooking surface.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein:

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the actuator is a rotating knob and the actuator is coupled using a linkage that extends between the knob and an underside of the cooking surface.

12. A combination sandwich press and grill device having a lower housing with a lower cooking surface and an upper housing with an upper cooking surface wherein:

- 5 a lower cooking surface temperature is controlled by a variable thermostat and an upper cooking surface temperature is controlled by a fixed thermostat.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein:

- 10 the variable thermostat is controlled by an actuator located on an exterior of the lower housing, the lower cooking surface being tilt adjustable, a rotating coupling extending between the actuator and the variable thermostat.

14. The device of claim 13, wherein:

- 15 the coupling comprises a floating shaft.

15. The device of claim 12, wherein:

- 20 the upper cooking surface has ribs.

16. A combination sandwich press and grill device having a lower housing with a lower cooking surface and an upper housing with an upper cooking surface wherein:

- 25 the lower housing receives a removable drip tray that collects drippings from the upper cooking surface when the device is in a fully open orientation.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein:

- 30 the upper cooking surface has a discharge spout formed in a rim of the upper cooking surface, the discharge spout leading into the drip tray when the device is in a fully open orientation.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein:
the drip tray protrudes from a rear of the lower housing.

19. The device of claim 18, wherein:

5 the drip tray protrudes from a front of the lower housing and the lower
cooking surface has a discharge spout that leads into that portion of the drip
tray that protrudes from the front of the lower housing.

20. A combination sandwich press and grill device having a lower housing
10 with a lower cooking surface and an upper housing with an upper cooking
surface, the upper and lower housings being interconnected by a hinge,
wherein:

the upper housing has a closed orientation, a fully open orientation and an
intermediate and locked orientation, the device positionable into the fully
15 open orientation only upon activation of a hinge locking mechanism that is
carried by the hinge that interconnects the upper and lower housings.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein:

the locking mechanism and hinge further comprise a track arm that limits the
20 position of a lower edge of the upper cooking surface when the upper housing
is in the intermediate and locked orientation, maintaining the lower edge
above the lower cooking surface.

22. The device of claim 20, wherein:

25 the locking mechanism and hinge further comprise a track arm that limits the
range of motion of a lower edge of the upper cooking surface when the upper
housing is in the fully open orientation

23. The device of claim 20, wherein:

30 the upper housing is carried by a “U” shaped frame having a transverse handle
and the handle serves as a foot when the upper housing is in the fully open
orientation.